



Honorable Gary H. Cronce, Mayor
Honorable Mike Olsen, Commissioner
Honorable Dawn Pannell, Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelton Wastewater Treatment Plant Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Shelton, WA— The City of Shelton held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrades and expansions on September 25th. U.S. Congressman Norm Dicks was the keynote speaker along with city, state, federal and shellfish representatives to officially dedicate the plant. A group of interested parties witnessed the ribbon cutting and then toured the new \$37 million plant.

“Bacteria from human and animal waste has been contaminating Oakland Bay, causing shellfish bed closures and increasing risks to human health. The recently upgraded Shelton Waste Water Treatment Plant is already showing results. The reopening of 750 acres of prime shellfish beds is a great example of success,” said **Tony Wright, executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership**. “The collaboration of the Squaxin Tribe, local shellfish growers, city and county officials, Rep. Norm Dicks and other dedicated community members all working together exemplifies the true meaning of working in partnership for Puget Sound.”

“We couldn’t have done this alone,” said City Commissioner Dawn Pannell. “We have been planning and constructing over 15 years with the assistance of federal, state and local entities with a goal to protect the environment while providing necessary upgrades and expansion of infrastructure for future population growth and economic development.” She went on to say securing funding for each project has been challenging but was successful due to partnerships and support from Representative Norm Dicks.

Planning, since 1996, lead to developing the phased Regional Plan; construction of all the projects are nearly complete. These include: the Satellite Water Reclamation Plant and conveyance system completed in 2009, to service Washington Correctional Center and State Patrol Academy; Public Utility District (PUD) #3 extended a water main to their new facility on Johns Prairie Road in 2010; Completing the WWTP upgrades and expansions celebrated on Tuesday; and the final phase, the extension of City water service providing potable water to the State Patrol Academy, will be completed in mid 2013. All these projects will service the City of Shelton citizens into the future and encourage economic development.

Funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development was a major source for this WWTP project, providing a combination of loans and grants, including American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. This project is proof the ARRA funds provided jobs and was put to a critical City need. Washington Department of Corrections and State Patrol also contributed funding for design and construction, in the Regional Partnership Agreement with the City.

For further information, please contact the Regional Projects Manager, Dennis McDonald via email dennis@ci.shelton.wa.us or by phone (360) 432-5167.

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Journal photo by Gordon Weeks

Left to right:

Debbie Harper, US Department of Agriculture-Rural Development, Gregg Grunenfelder, Dept. of Health, Anthony Wright Puget Sound Partnership, Rep. Norm Dicks, City Commissioner Dawn Pannell, Brett Bishop, Little Skookum Growers, Greg Zentner, Dept. of Ecology.